

WHITE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
MARCH 14, 2006

A special meeting of the White County Board begun and holden this 14th day of March 2006 in the Courtroom of the White County Courthouse in the City of Carmi.

Chairman Wooten called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Clerk Dozier called the roll with Nelson, Ray, Mitchell, Trout and Wooten all present.

Chairman Wooten asked the Board if they received copies of the minutes of the previous meeting and were there any additions, changes or deletions. Mr. Ray made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and approve the minutes of the previous meeting as proposed in writing. Motion seconded by Nelson. Motion carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

Chairman Wooten asked for a motion to pay all current bills. Mr. Nelson made a motion to pay all current bills, seconded by Trout. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Chairman Wooten asked Clerk Dozier if she was ready for the election. Clerk Dozier replied that all of the election supplies had not been delivered but she was in hopes the last of them should be shipped by March 15, 2006.

Chairman Wooten asked Mr. Bosaw if any county roads were under water. Mr. Bosaw the County Engineer replied that currently seven county roads were under water. Mr. Bosaw also addressed the yellow flashing light at the Epworth curve. Mr. Bosaw stated that a decision would be made within the next couple of weeks.

Chairman Wooten stated that the Ambulance Director had submitted his report in writing to the ambulance committee and to the full Board. Mr. Heckler stated he was glad to see Clerk Dozier back.

Mr. Doug Maier, White County Sheriff, stated that the expense in the jail excluding salaries was \$18,784.93 the salaries were \$35,768.00 for a total expense of \$54,552.93. The prisoner keep was \$60,308.00, work release was \$851.00 and inmate telephone commission was \$891.20 for a total income of \$62,050.20. Sheriff Maier stated that the total jail income to date has been \$200,941.52. Sheriff Maier stated that the jail is currently housing 61 individuals with 24 of those from White County. Sheriff Maier stated that the State conducted a surprise inspection and that the jail was currently in compliance with everything except staffing. The State is asking that he hire enough staff so there will be at least four individuals on duty on every shift to meet State guidelines. Sheriff Maier stated that his expenditures did not include salaries for 9-1-1 dispatching. Sheriff Maier stated that the dispatching expenditure was \$25,911.56 for last month and 9-1-1 reimbursed two positions. Sheriff Maier stated that he had just had Randy Graves trained in clandestine meth lab clean-up and that will give his Department two deputies who can handle meth labs, since the loss of the Drug Task Force. Sheriff Maier also stated that the State Police post was looking at establishing a dump site at the Post which will cut down on the number of hours his officers have to set at a meth site waiting on clean-up. Sheriff Maier also explained that he and Mike Thomas the Chief of Police would be taking a 9-1-1 Dispatch Course over the weekend. This would allow them to do dispatching in case of an emergency or shortage of staff. Currently Mr.

Maier and Mr. Thomas can not dispatch because of the training and the 9-1-1 Coordinator has had to fill in on several occasions. Chairman Wooten asked the Sheriff if the 9-1-1 transition had gone smoothly and the Sheriff replied very smooth and with very few complications.

Chairman Wooten stated that the next 9-1-1 meeting would be held on Monday, March 20, 2006 in the Courtroom at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Wooten stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider contributions to the Senior Citizens. Chairman Wooten asked the Board to donate \$1,000.00 to Norris City, Grayville and Enfield and \$5,000.00 to the Carmi-White County Center. Chairman Wooten stated that the amounts were figured in the current budget. Mr. Trout made a motion to contribute to the Senior Citizens Center, seconded by Nelson. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Chairman Wooten stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider renewing the current contract with Insurance Audit and Inspection in the amount of \$2,985.00 which is a four dollar increase from last year. Chairman Wooten explained that Insurance Audit and Inspection was the insurance consultants for the County's liability, auto liability and workman's compensation, inland marine and building and contents. Mr. Ray made a motion to renew are contract with Insurance Audit and Inspection, seconded by Nelson. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Chairman Wooten introduced Susan Maier who addressed the Board about the Mass Casualty trailer. Ms. Maier stated that White County had received a mass casualty trailer last year and that the pick-up truck that would pull the trailer should be in by this month. Ms. Maier also stated that a generator had been received and the plans were to store it with the Carmi ESDA. Ms. Maier stated that she was currently looking for volunteers to take HAZ MAT training a be available to help set up the mass casualty trailer. Ms. Maier stated that to be able to set up the trailer was taking as many as 15 people and as long as 10 hours on the initial set up. She stated that would take all of the law enforcement officers for the City and County just for the set up of the trailer and they would be unable to work the emergency detail. Ms. Maier stated that this was all volunteer and the HAZ Mat Course was 40 hours of training with no pay. She stated that she has been very fortunate and has several individuals interested in taking that training. She asked the Board to consider adoption of an ordinance. Ms. Maier explained that if a company has an accident that requires the mass casualty trailer to be used that company would be responsible for reimbursing the County so that the trailer could be re-stocked after each use and it would not become a burden to the taxpayers. Chairman Wooten directed the State's Attorney to look into the ordinance and prepare it for the April meeting. Ms. Maier thanked the Board for their interest.

Chairman Wooten stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider the reappointment of Wes Trout to the Wabash Area Development Board for a one-year term. Mr. Nelson made a motion to appoint Mr. Trout, seconded by Ray. Motion passed 4-0-1 on roll call vote with Trout passing.

Chairman Wooten stated that on January 10, 2006 the White County Board on a 3/2 vote adopted a resolution to place a public safety tax referendum on the March 21, 2006 Primary Ballot. Chairman Wooten stated that he contacted the Illinois Department of Revenue and they informed him that if the one half of one percent would pass it would generate approximately \$429,000.00. Chairman Wooten stated after learning of the dollar figure he suggested that he meet with the Norris City and Grayville Ambulance personnel and try and derive a figure that would be equitable for all concerned. He stated that he met with Mayor Bisch and Grayville stated they would like to have 13% of the monies or \$56,000.00 contributed to the Grayville Ambulance.

Chairman Wooten stated that he met with Norris City Ambulance and arrived at a figure of 16 percent or \$69,000.00 for the Norris City Ambulance Service. Chairman Wooten stated that at the February Board meeting the Board voted to only expend the public safety funds for the ambulance services in the County. The Board also voted to give Grayville 13 percent of the monies and Norris City 16 percent of the monies, which would leave around \$349,000.00 going to the White County Ambulance Service. Chairman Wooten also stated that an individual might go to the polling place and only vote on the referendum. The individual needs to ask for a non-partisan ballot. Chairman Wooten stated by asking for a non-partisan ballot the individual will not have to declare their politics and the only thing on the ballot will be the referendum. Chairman Wooten also told the Board and the media that the one half of one percent could not be raised unless a new referendum is submitted to the public, however the one half of one percent may be lowered by a vote of the County Board. Chairman Wooten explained that for the last several years the White County ambulance service has been operating in a deficit situation. The monies will be used to refund the General Fund for monies spent in past years and to also pay for the new ambulance and to upgrade the current equipment and training of EMT's. Chairman Wooten stated that he has had several individuals ask about a paramedic service and he stated that until we know if the referendum passes we could not make any decisions. Chairman Wooten stated that if the referendum did not pass he could not guarantee the future of White County Government nor the Ambulance Service. Chairman Wooten stated that the County is still faced with the implementation of Bulletin 810 which is the reassessment of farmland and woodland and White County could lose up to \$70,000.00 worth of tax revenue because of those changes alone. Chairman Wooten also explained that if the referendum passed it would be around October 2006 before the County might see any of the sales tax revenues and could be even later in the year. Chairman Wooten and the Board urged everyone to get out and vote. Clerk Dozier stated that she had been ill over the past week and was at the Deaconess Emergency Room twice and the Fairfield Emergency Room and neither hospital could keep her because there were no rooms available.

Mr. Ray stated that the Norris City Ambulance Service has been operating for the past twenty -five years or so with volunteers and continuous fundraisers. Mr. Ray stated that was a lot of responsibility trying to keep an ambulance service going on fundraisers and that the public safety tax would take a burden off of the volunteers and the public and would allow the ambulance services to operate over the County. Mr. Ray stated that the ambulance services within the last two months have become the first health care providers now available in the County because of the closing of the hospital.

Chairman Wooten stated that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtroom.

Mrs. Mitchell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trout. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.